

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper



A trail of blood shows where Carol Abernethy was dragged under the wheels of the lorry. The so-called safety barrier was already damaged before the accident. (pic: Andrew Haig).

BAN THE KILLER LORRIES

The tragic accident at the corner of Graham Road and Mare Street on Saturday 10 April was further proof that lorries and people cannot exist together on busy urban streets. Graham Road residents are now pressing the GLC Inquiry into Heavy Lorries, which is now sitting, to bring in an immediate ban on lorries using this dangerous "rat run."

Carol Abernethy, 22, a resident of Graham Rd, was attempting to cross the junction whilst doing her weekend shopping at 11.30 in the morning when she was dragged off along the road by a juggernaut that was turning into Graham Road. Her injuries were truly horrific and as a result she died in hospital six days later.

A week after the accident the Graham Rd group held a vigil and collected signatures on

a petition, near to the scene of the accident. In one hour over 400 people signed the petition demanding action by the GLC. Many were still angry and sickened by what had happened. The irony of the accident was that less than two months ago members of the GLC Inquiry into Heavy Lorries stood on the self-same corner and were shocked at the traffic they saw. And that was at 11 o'clock at night. In fact, only quick action by one of the Graham Road Residents saved one of the members from also being run over by a lorry.

FOUR YEARS

The Graham Road and District Residents Association has now been fighting for nearly four years to ban heavy lorries using London's streets as a short-cut. The position is particularly bad in Hackney as traffic coming from the Black-

wall Tunnel turns off at the Wick and makes its way through unsuitable narrow streets to link up with the North Circular near Henly's Corner. The lorry drivers call it a "rat run" and use it day and night. In fact, Graham Road residents now have on average one lorry every 15 seconds passing their front doors - day and night. The early morning peak rush hour for lorries 5am - 7am sees one lorry every 12 seconds - imagine sleeping through that lot.

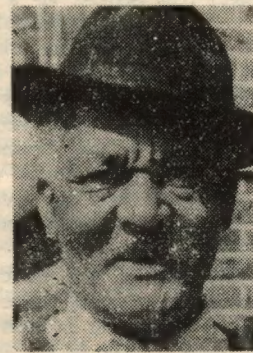
DEMAND

The GLC Inquiry on Heavy Lorries, now sitting, was largely a result of Graham Road pressure before the last GLC elections. In April 1981 Graham Road sent out a broadsheet which stated its case and demand to ALL Labour GLC candidates. The candidates were asked to sign and return a form which agreed with the group's main aims. These called on the GLC to carry out immediate action to:

One: Reduce noise and Disturbance by giving noise insulation grants for flats and

Continued on p.8.

JUDGE AWARDS £50,000 TO BLACK STOKE NEWINGTON COUPLE



'Savage' Police Attack

Hackney police's record of brutality against black people hit the headlines again last month when a Stoke Newington couple was awarded over £50,000 damages for what was described as a "savage" and "inhuman" attack in their home nearly six years ago.

The High Court judge presiding over the case, Justice Mars-Jones, described the assault on David and Lucille White as "brutal" and "inhuman" and condemned the subsequent police cover-up as "monstrous, wicked and shameful conduct".

Yet despite the obvious guilt of the officers concerned, the police are considering an appeal - and none of the officers involved in the assault have been disciplined.

The assault took place on the night of September 15 & 16 1976 when 17 police officers from Stoke Newington police station turned up at the Whites' house on the pretext of looking for stolen goods. Although a search warrant had apparently been issued nothing was found, and the search warrant was never even produced.

Once inside the house, the police officers seized upon

COVER-UP

the Whites' son Dennis and started beating him with a truncheon. When Mr & Mrs White came downstairs to investigate the officers began an unprovoked attack on the couple, during which they sustained multiple injuries: Mr White was beaten with a weapon and received a black eye which the judge admitted was "the most appalling I have ever seen in my life", whilst Mrs White was grabbed by the hair and hit on the head.

The attack was condemned by Justice Mars-Jones as "a catalogue of violence and inhuman treatment by young officers".

Even further examples of this gross miscarriage of justice were the police's attempts to cover up the assault and their subsequent intimidation of the Whites.

Immediately after the attack took place Mr and Mrs

Continued on page 3

1982-1986: HACKNEY FACES THE FUTURE

As Hackney goes to the polls once again we present a useful and highly partial guide to the parties fighting for Council seats - and look at some of the key issues involved. See pages 4-5.

And don't forget to watch out next month for the first real assessment of where Hackney will be going for the next four years, in INSIDE LEFT.



No threat from USSR

Dear Sir,
The contents of my letter should be considered more important than the heading you gave it in the March issue of the HPP. The letter was headed "Stalin Speaks". If you refer to me as a "Stalinist" I would consider it a compliment. Most of your readers do not realise that the most popular man in the world from 1941-1945 was Joseph Stalin. If our hard worked men and women in industry were required to do extra work or overtime, an expression frequently used

would be for "Uncle Joe", a name affectionately referred to Joe Stalin when extra effort was required for the war effort.

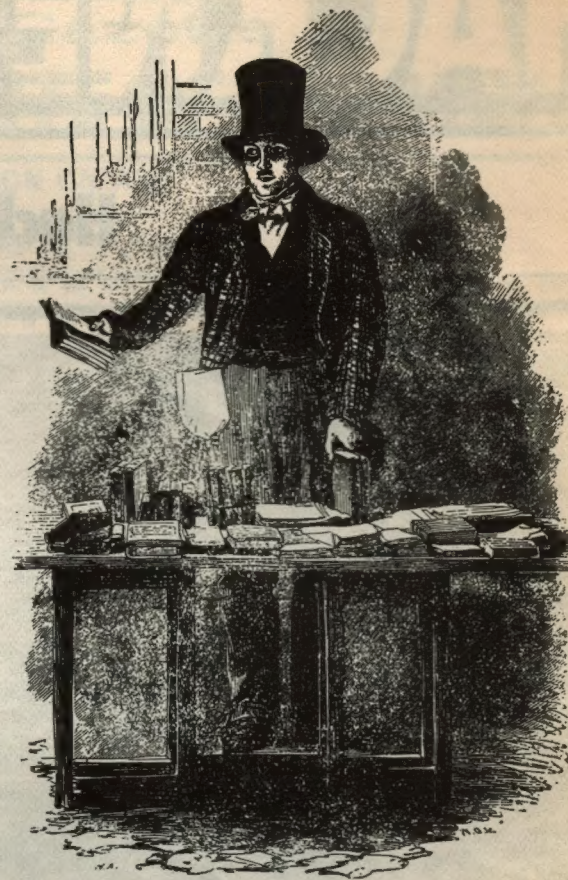
Since my letter was about Poland I will say that we would be very happy if the situations were as well settled in Ireland, Israel, El Salvador, South Africa etc. as the situation will be solved in Poland by General Jaruzelsky.

I noticed in your article about the CND meeting at the Hackney Town Hall Jim Spicer MP & MEP tried to give the impression that there is a Soviet threat. Nothing could be further from the truth. History tells us that the Russians have never been a threat to our country, on the contrary in three wars when our countries survival was at stake, the Russians were our gallant allies. At the beginning of the last century when the French were a menace to Britain, it was the

Russians who beat Napoleon in 1812 and because of it Napoleon met his Waterloo in 1815. In the first World War, because the Russians were occupied in the battles on the Eastern Front where they lost over three million men against the Germans and because of it France was not occupied by the Germans. The last war we all know how the Soviet Red Army destroyed eighty per cent of the Nazi German Army, even Churchill who hated the Soviets had to say to Stalin "You tore the Guts out of the German Army."

The greatest threat to our security today is to allow our policies to be dominated by the Whitehouse by people such as Reagan and Haig, in the same way as our policies were dominated at Munich by Hitler and Goering in the thirties.

Yours sincerely,
A. Sirotkin.



'... an embarrassingly empty room with one tutor, an audience of two and an electric fire that doesn't work.'

Ten years in Hackney

May is the tenth anniversary of the Hackney branch of the Workers' Educational Association. After many years of non-activity, the local branch was revived in 1972 as a result of the strong wishes of local people to provide their own adult education. Some 80 people attended a preliminary meeting in the Town Hall in April 1972.

The first courses ten years ago related to themes that have remained important areas of concern for the branch since: a women's health course, a local history workshop, a course on the 1972 Housing Finance Act and on the teaching of reading. Subjects like these, as well as mental health care and 'alternative strategies' have been recurring themes in the branch programme over the past ten years. Much of this provision has been closely connected with having a meeting space for the branch and its classes at Centerprise.

It has not, of course, been one glorious story of continuous success. In common with all others who organise classes or meetings we have sometimes sat in an embarrassingly empty room with one tutor, an audience of two and a fire that doesn't work. But we've also had problems of success, with 30 people in the room and a queue of people outside trying to squeeze in.

The long-running courses have given rise to many publications, articles and policy documents. Equally important have been the numerous short courses on a wide variety of subjects such as Community Child Care, Art Appreciation, Micro-chips, Psychoanalysis and the Energy Crisis. There have also been day schools, and occasional lectures on controversial topics. E.P.

Thompson, Sheila Rowbotham, Raymond Williams, Anna Davin and Mike Cooley are just some of the people who have spoken in Hackney on occasions organised by the WEA.

Running this kind of independent provision has been hard, but rewarding, work. Only tutors are paid - all the administration and planning is done by people who attend the open monthly branch meetings.

See & join

The tenth anniversary in May will be an opportunity for members, students, ex-students and everybody else interested to see the exhibition in the Centerprise coffee bar, take part in the AGM and join in refreshments afterwards. We need new people in the branch and welcome those who are keen to help carry on providing lively, socially relevant evening and day-time classes, day schools and single lectures.

We also welcome local union branches, community and political organisations to affiliate to our branch as a way of showing support for our aims, as well as providing some financial assistance. We want the Hackney WEA to continue to provide the kind of adult education that relates directly to the interests of people living or working in Hackney, and that will make it a livelier and more challenging place to live in.

The Hackney WEA tenth anniversary Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 20 May at 7.30 pm, at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Contact Hackney WEA, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

NUCLEAR WAR: Medical Effects

Each year every Regional Health Authority spends £35,000 on making contingency plans in the event of a nuclear strike in their area.

At a well-attended meeting on 22 April at the Shoreditch Health Clinic, speakers emphasised that the money could be far better spent if it were used on realistic publicity to stress how vital it was to prevent nuclear war.

Dr. Lesley Morrison, GP, showed slides illustrating how vast the number of casualties and how wide the devastation would be after a one megaton bomb had been dropped on London. Within a matter of seconds all

houses in Hackney would be flattened after a strike in central London.

Dr. Berry Beaumont, a specialist in community medicine, showed how the current NHS plans would be totally inadequate to cope with the medical consequences of death, serious injury, third degree burns, radiation sickness cancers, as well as the problems caused by having no clean water, food or general sanitation, to say nothing of the problems of communication and transport of supplies.

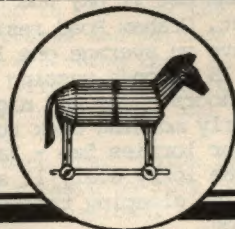
Dr. Paul Walker, Regional Medical Officer of the North East Thames RHA, agreed to the need to publicise the necessity to prevent war.

However he, and the final speaker Air Commodore John Greenhill, the Emergency Planning Officer for North East Thames RHA, considered that we must face up to the nuclear threat should international negotiations for disarmament fail and that we needed to go ahead with planning for the very limited help that health workers could give.

The Chairperson, Dennis Timms, summed up the meeting by saying that it had been a very successful first joint venture between the City and East London Community Health Council and Hackney CND. But his final words were "I am absolutely terrified. I am sure you all are."

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RECTORY HOUSING

If you were to ask some of the residents of Stoke Newington about the Rectory Housing Action Area, their opinions would probably be unprintable. The cause is Hackney Town Hall's lack of information, lack of consultation and inter-departmental mix-ups - and the threat of demolishing houses rather than improving them.

Whilst Hackney Housing Department was informing residents that they had declared a Housing Action Area, with the possibility of substantial grants to repair houses, the Environmental Health Officers were investigating how many they could demolish. When the Housing Department found out, it was horrified. The costs of wholesale compulsory purchase, demolition and rehousing were quite beyond them.

As a result, a reprieve was forced through for some of the houses. All this has taken some time. The first surveys began early in 1981, yet even now many homes are still under threat. As late as March 23 this year, the Housing Development Subcommittee was considering a report on the options of renovation or demolition -

a report that the residents' association, the ward councillors and the Action Area Office knew nothing about.

MEETING

A meeting of residents, angry that decisions about their lives and homes were being taken without their knowledge, called on the Council departments concerned to turn up at 8.15pm on May 12 at St Paul's Church Hall, Evering Road, to explain. At this public meeting, residents will expect to see the Housing Department's findings on 'clearance', so that the Council officers concerned can be questioned and the views of the residents taken into account, before any final recommendation is made.

If you live in the Rectory Housing Action Area and particularly in Rectory Road (nos. 35-97), Evering Road (61-79) or Brooke Road (25-50), this could be a very important meeting for you. Certainly the Residents' Association and Councillor Brian Weller will be wanting to know how a bulldozer helps improve a house and just what other 'benefits' the Council can bring to a housing action area.

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Mick Hutton - Bass

Mark Doffman - Drums

Blackmail refuted

The campaign by the Clapton Youth Centre's Defence Committee to get their tutor in charge, Mr. Samuel, promoted to full-time lecturer has taken a new twist.

Apparently for most such cases, the applicant is 'converted' to the higher grade by a fairly informal process. For Mr Samuel however ILEA officers insisted on "applying the rules" and made him fill in a formal application form. This, says the Defence Committee, was to expose his past offences - offences of some ten years' ago and of a minor nature (resisting arrest).

Mr. Samuel's application came up for consideration by an ILEA committee on March 31. The decision taken however was referred to another committee to be held on April 27 for a further decision. Since the decision had been taken in the confidential section of the meeting, it could not be discussed and the result was not known to the Hackney Black People's Association.

On April 22 however, the Daily Mail ran a large article, revealing this 'confidential' decision, apparently with the intention of carrying on a smear campaign against Mr. Samuel.

A Daily Mail reporter told Hackney Black People's Association that the Tories at County Hall had issued a statement saying that Mr Samuel was a militant who sought confrontation rather than compromise and this made him unsuitable for the job. The Daily Mail article quoted Mr Peter Clyne, Assistant Education Officer, as saying in his report to the committee that "if Mr Samuel is not offered a salaried appointment in accordance with his wishes, there is likely to be strong - and possibly violent - reaction from the local black community". The Defence Committee sees this as a slur on black people by Mr Clyne and his officers and said that at no time did anyone threaten violence.

A Defence Committee spokesperson told HPP that it and other local organisations have already had occasion to complain of racism in ILEA. Mr Clyne's statement shows it happening yet again. The Mail also reveals its racist tendencies by talking about 'blackmail' by the black community in an attempt to whip up racist hysteria.

The Mail, of course, is not exactly noted for its unbiased reporting of black issues. Indeed, the Press Council recently upheld a complaint against the Daily Mail for doctoring a picture in a way which reflected black people in a bad light. Both the NUJ and the CRE have condemned the paper for its racially biased reporting.

In spite of the attack on Mr Samuel, support for his application continues strong from many sides. We await the next stage in the campaign.

'Savage' Police Attack

Continued from page 1

White were dragged into the back of a police car - still barefoot and in their night-clothes - and were taken to the police station along with their son Dennis, who was still unconscious. There they were charged with 11 offences, including assault. The charges were so flimsy that most were dismissed, but - remarkably - their son was convicted with attempting to wound a policeman and damaging his tunic. His parents are still trying to get this conviction quashed.

It was during the investigation into Dennis' case that the police continued their harassment of the Whites. In one incident, six months after the original attack, police turned up at their home in the middle of the night to question Dennis - even though he was no longer living there. Mrs White was so frightened that she could not open the door; the police officer jammed the

doorbell with a twig so that it would not stop ringing.

The White's complaint against the police took nearly six years to come to court because there was a deliberate attempt to cover up the assault. Yet most of the evidence presented by the police, including that from a senior officer of Stoke Newington police station, was dismissed by the judge as inconsistent.

The level of damages awarded to the Whites may be considered unusual, yet for most black people in Hackney the level of intimidation they receive from the police is all too familiar. Hackney Council for Racial Equality told HPP that in the past 12 months they have been aware of at least 6 similar cases of harassment, and HCRE Chairperson Dudley Dryden commented that the case only goes to show that police intimidation of black people does occur in Hackney.

In his opinion there is a "small homet's nest" of racist officers at Stoke Newington police station, who "must accept that we are living in a multi-racial society".

What remains to be seen now is whether the guilty officers are brought to trial. As we go to press top Scotland Yard officers are considering an investigation into the case, but the police officers concerned are still free to intimidate more black people.

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Hackney Communist Party, 126 Amhurst Road, London E8.



Our Future

Hackney has never been a bed of roses but today we're in real trouble. People are desperate for a way forward. Many, however, are disillusioned even cynical, about politics and the established parties. But by acting together people can win change for the better. Organising around the issues that concern them Hackney people have won some important advances in recent years - nurseries, better wages, improvements on estates, for example. In this pamphlet we argue that the way forward is through new democratic and socialist politics. This will pave the way to the achievement of a just, socialist society.

Vote Communist on May 6



1982-1986

FACES THE

ELECTION SPECIAL HACKNEY

Two Issues Examined: Under Fives Ethnic Minorities

As part of HPP's examination of the Council's record over the last few years we turn our attention to the Social Services Department. Rather than attempt a general overview of this large department we have chosen instead an in-depth survey of their record in one particular area - the under fives.

Grants to community nurseries have been increased and the council has committed itself to parity of wages (with those in the borough day nurseries) for community nursery staff. The borough has taken over the funding for Defoe Day Care Centre out of partnership and also funded Dalston Childrens Centre and the new Leswin Road nursery. Four new nurseries have been built and were ready in 1979, however one is still not open because of the cuts. Weatherall Day Nursery has moved out of its pre-fab into a new building. But design faults mean the nursery can not take babies, as was intended. So whilst the number of nurseries and the quality of buildings have improved, cuts in staff levels mean that the number of children in day care has not increased since 1978 - about 500 including the community nurseries.

In 1979 the Social Services Dept. produced a report on provision for the Under Fives which recommended filling staff posts in the day nurseries, and creating an Under Fives Dept. at Morning Lane. None of these recommendations were acted on, presumably because of cuts. Almost no children under two are in day nurseries

despite the huge demand. Apparently a child has to be on the waiting list for two years to qualify for a place!

Four childminder organisers have been appointed - one to each of the Social Services Area Offices. However most of their time is taken up with the administrative demands of registering minders. They have not been able to give the amount of support and back up services necessary to ensure good standards of minding. Despite a lot of meetings, and the creation of a new Leisure Directorate, Hackney Council has not managed to ensure that the childrens playgrounds in the parks and on the estates are safe - or even inviting! Only during the last few months has some of the long standing highly dangerous equipment been removed after lots of local Pressure.

EXAMPLE

To finish this review of the Council's record on provision for the Under Fives, we will look at one particular example: The Clissold Park One O' Clock Club. In 1972 a group of local parents petitioned for toilets at the club. Visiting Town Hall Officials assured the mothers that the building was a temporary one and that a new purpose built One O' Clock building with toilets and hot water was in the pipe-line. As hundreds of local parents of Under Fives will know this so called temporary building still serves as the Clissold Park One O' Clock Club, without toilets. Its a case of bring your own potty!



Ethnic minorities have good reason to be suspicious of the record of Hackney Council over the last four years. Although the primary causes of last year's riots or uprising were the harassment of black people by the police and the high level of unemployment in the area, there is no doubt that there is still a high level of institutionalised racism in Hackney.

FAILURE

The Council has failed to set up a proper Equal Opportunities policy, although it claims to have done so. At present only some eight percent of the Council's own workforce is from the ethnic minorities - a level which does not come near the proportion in the population as a whole. And at a senior level the proportion is much lower. The highest ranking ethnic minority worker for the Council is a middle-grade officer in the Community Development Unit, and he is Greek, not black. A proper policy is absolutely crucial for the new Council.

Last summer's events forced the ethnic minorities to a new level of unity and determination. This was reflected by the later row - which is still not resolved - about the provision of ethnic minority material for the library service. Again, there is no doubt that more

could have been done at the time to prevent the complete disruption of two full Council meetings when the legitimate demands of the Ethnic Minorities Consultative Committee were not met.

SUCCESS

Of course, some progress has been made. An Ethnic Minorities Forum is in the process of being set up, although its worth has yet to be proved. The partnership programme, such as it is worth, has been used to give financial help to a number of organisations and self-help groups. Much more can be done.

Crucial in the coming Council's term of office will be the support it gives to the Hackney Council for Racial Equality. Relations between the Council and the HCRE have been up and down over the last four years, and these were not helped by the special investigation into the role and work of HCRE which the Council set up after pressure from a number of dubious right-wing sources. HCRE has always suffered by not having enough money, and by operating from woefully inadequate offices. A firm commitment to a radical, well-equipped and well-staffed HCRE will be something that ethnic minority groups will be expecting from a new council.

THE

LABOUR'S PLAN FOR ACTION

Although if national trends are any guide, this election could mean a reduction in Labour's overall majority on the Council, their election material shows no signs of anxiety. The opposition parties are ignored and the message concentrates on what Labour will be doing to fight back against the Tory Government and improve life for Hackney people.

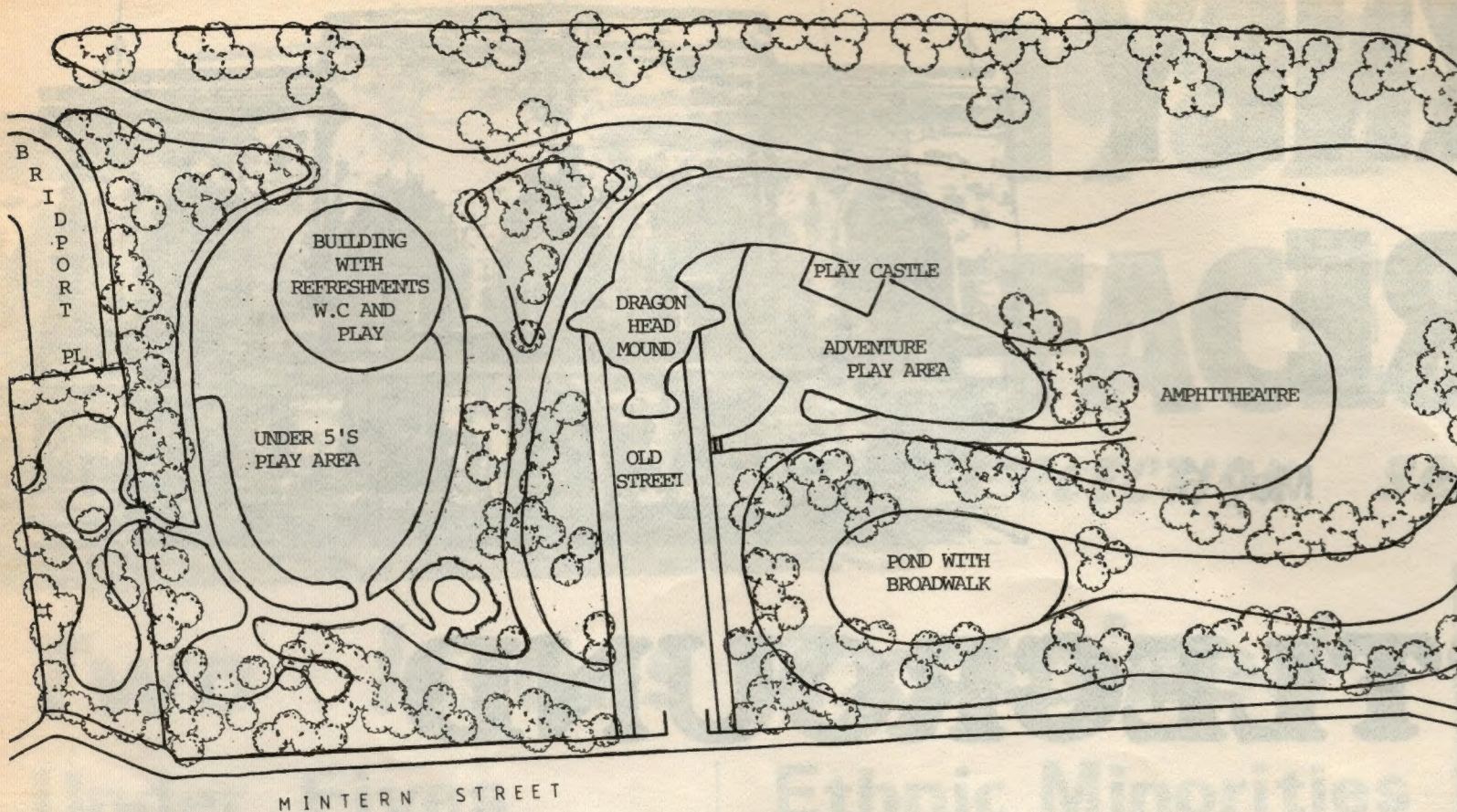
The party acknowledges that so long as the present government remains in power, much of what Hackney needs cannot be achieved. There is nevertheless much which can be tackled. Central plank in the Labour plan for action is decentralisation. The intention is that people should be given more control over their lives by providing new points of contact between local people and the Council. Labour wants greater input from tenants associations and from trade unions. A complete reform of the structure and work of local government is planned. Local offices are to be set up, run by local committees, based where possible on neighbourhoods. These offices will deal with repairs, home lettings, rent and rate rebates, social workers and town planning.

Housing will concentrate on the needs of the elderly, disabled and large families. Short term leases will be given on empty properties until they can be renovated properly.

Social services will aim to provide more caring services for children and old people within the community rather than in care. A crash programme of day nurseries is planned.

Local accountability is again the keynote in the policy on the police. Policing





kids plan play park

PLAY PARK

The planning of an exciting play park at Shoreditch is well on the way to completion. After three months of hectic discussions with all kinds of local groups, a plan has been drawn up which incorporates as many of the suggestions made as possible. This plan is now on display at the Teachers' Centre at Pitfield Street and at a local art exhibition for schools at Hackney Town Hall.

Consultation

Hackney Play Association, which has been co-ordinating the programme of public consultation, was determined that the exercise would be a

genuine one that would find out what was really needed.

The process began in January with an exhibition of information on the play park - what kind of landscaping and equipment were possible and how the park might be used. Schools, toddlers' clubs and nurseries were visited and children encouraged to come up with ideas.

From their art work, a whole range of suggestions emerged. They wanted swings, slides, green spaces, trees, mounds, a tree house, a castle and a monster.

Other talks have been held with adult groups - teachers, parents and a week end with the Council for Environmental Conservation that provided a useful plan for the future.

The plan

All the proposals made have been drawn together and have been turned into a drawing by landscape architects. This plan includes

- a separate area for the under-fives with sand and water
- space for performances
- a cafe and toilets
- a castle and tree houses
- water
- swings and slides, with safety surfaces
- an adventure playground area
- a monster, possibly created by landscaping
- mounds, trees, flowers, etc to make an ecological area.

There will also be some hardstanding and indoor facilities.

The aim is to provide a visually rich and stimulating environment using a variety of materials, planting and equipment so that the play park will be a lovely place where children will both play and learn.

The plan has attracted quite a lot of interest nationally, not only in the media but also in national organisations such as the Town and Country Planning Association. The scheme could well become a model for other authorities throughout the country.

The plan is now being taken on to the detailed design stage and consultation will continue to make certain that the final park is exactly what is wanted.

THE OTHER SIDE OF LONDON

Review

Peace, man. Far out. Grow your hair. *Alternative London* is back.

Back in 1970 hip capitalist and entrepreneur Nicholas Saunders brought out edition number one. "Alternative" was a word bandied round to describe anything relating to youth culture. Is it now?

This is edition number six, selling now at a pretty massive £3.50. It combines the usual mix of a "survival" guide with advice about everything from consumer goods and rights to housing, politics and therapy.

There is a huge amount of information packed into the 336 pages, and probably it would be difficult to find it all in one place anywhere else. Having said that, I feel I must quibble with a few things.

The very first section on who runs London is woefully inadequate. It is simply not enough to say that the GLC runs some services and the local boroughs others. This is particularly true when we have seen only too clearly how the courts and the Government can overrule the GLC on the cheap fares issue. And local boroughs pervade so many areas of life that a proper discussion of how they affect us would be very helpful.

Mistakes

Inevitably, also, there are mistakes in the listings. Particularly upsetting to us at HPP is that our listing is wrong. The phone number has been changed but not the address. And on consecutive pages the address of our (wonderful!) landlords, Trojan Printing, (grovel, grovel) is given as two separate, and incorrect addresses. And Centerprise is listed as being in Kingsland Road, not Kingsland High Street: a common enough but checkable error.

Perhaps all these reflect the book's West London slant. Back in 1970, North Kensington Earls Court and Notting Hill were probably the centre of the "alternative" culture. Maybe they are still - and us more cynical East Londoners are not where it's at, after all.

LET THE ESTATES RUN THEMSELVES!

Review

A New deal for Council Housing is an important and



informative report. In it Islington Council tenants and estate workers jointly propose a new approach to the management and maintenance of council estates.

It essentially recommends decentralization of the management and building workers but also calls for an upgrading of status and priority given to the running of council estates, to the people who live on them and to the people who work on them.

The importance of the report is that it lays down the foundations from which could grow the "new deal for council housing". The problems have been with us for a long time, but so far they have been dealt with from above by a detached, centralised management with no ability to act in the direct interests of the tenants. The effect has been to cause the alienation of the workers who are in direct contact with the dissatisfied tenants. This vicious circle has to be broken and effective control placed at a more local

democratic level.

One of the proposals in the report is the formation of Joint Estate Committees to provide a forum at estate level for tenants and workforce to work together for a common purpose, and so sort out issues by discussion rather than conflict.

No extra cost

The report also explodes the myth that better conditions will naturally cost more. This is just not true and yet it is continually put forward as a major argument (or excuse) for the continuation of present policies. A valuable appendix backs up the statements with evidence from projects:

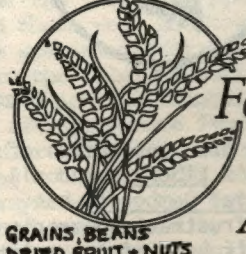
"The Priority Estates Project found that the increased rent income from the take up of the empty houses more than offset the cost of the neighbourhood management scheme."

If council housing is to be prevented from slipping irreversibly into a second

class form of housing, its future must depend on the democratic approach outlined in this report. Although based on work done in Islington, it is relevant to all council tenants and estate workers in the country.

Copies of the report (price £1) can be obtained from North Islington Housing Rights Project, 129 St John's Way, London N19 3RU.

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Sun 30 for one week The Empire Strikes Back + Star Wars.

Sun 9 matinee Dr. Strange-love + The China Syndrome.

Sun 16 matinee Nosferatu the Vampire (subtitles) + Kagemusha.

All films £1.80 Pensioners 60p
Phone Cinema for details of times and other dates.

Music

CHAT'S PALACE
- See under separate heading.

CROWN AND CASTLE
600 Kingsland Rd, E8
254 3678

Downstairs Bar: Live folk music most nights - free

Upstairs Bar: Doors open at 9pm, show starts at 10pm, Late Bar and Food, admission prices unknown.

Sat 1: The Three Courgettes - fancy harmonies and rocking tunes, plus Lynn Thomas - Juggler/Conjuror

Fri 7: Silly Boy Lemon - jazz plus Sharon Landauer - nifty songs and witty piano work

Sat 8: Sharon Landauer plus Justin Case & Peter Wear of the Two Reel Co.

Fri 14: Silly Boy Lemon plus Attila the Stockbroker

Sat 15: Sitting Ducks plus Polly - Comedienne and others

Fri 21: Silly Boy Lemon plus Akimbo - songs for women and others

Sat 22: Akimbo plus Andy Cunningham (all three of him) plus others

Fri 28: Silly Boy Lemon plus Controlled Attack

Sat 29: Controlled Attack plus Silly Boy Lemon

FOX'S WINE BAR
Stoke Newington High St, N16
254 2709

Sat 1 Dick Phelps (sax) & Rad Segrt (guitar).

Sun 2 Jan Ponsford (vocals) & Alistair Smith (piano).

Fri 7 Tony James (guitar) & Jonathon Miller (piano).

Sat 8 Louis O'Neill (piano).

Sun 9 Terry Lee (piano) & Joe Mydell (vocals).

Fri 14 Louis O'Neill (piano)

Sat 15 Dick Phelps (sax) & Dennis Palmer (guitar).

Sun 16 Jan Ponsford (vocals) & Jonathon Miller (piano).

Fri 21) to be confirmed.

Sat 22)

Sun 23 Jan Ponsford (vocals) & Jonathon Miller (piano).

Fri 28 to be confirmed.

Sat 29 Dave Hughes (guitar) & Andy Herbert (guitar).

Sun 30 Jan Ponsford (vocals) & Jonathon Miller (piano).

HACKNEY MUSICIANS COLLECTIVE

Live gigs every Thursday evening 8 - 11 at the Sir George Robey (opposite the Rainbow) Finsbury Park.

6 May: Takeover

13 May: Cab Drivers

20 May: Left Hand Sugar plus Hystericals

27 May: Walking Wounded plus The Badges

HMC meetings are at Centreprise 136 Kingsland High St, E8 on the first Wednesday of each month. All local musicians are welcome.

THE PEGASUS
109 Green Lanes, N16
254 5930

All bands start at 9pm

Mondays 3, 10, 17 & 24:
Celadon Ceili Band £1

Monday 31: Frenchies

Tuesdays 4, 11 & 25
The E-Types 80p

Tuesday 18: The Radical Sheiks

Wednesdays: Big J and the J-Walkers with Big J Monque-D (New Orleans R&B) £1.25

Thursdays: The Hank Wangford Band £2

Fridays 7, 14 & 21: Juice on the loose £1.50

Friday 28: Big J and the J-Walkers £1.25

Saturdays: Big Chief £1.50

Sundays 2 & 9: The Republic £1.30

Sunday 16: The Ivory Coasters £1.30

Sundays 23 & 30: Lee Cosmin £1.30

PEMBURY ARMS

90 Amhurst Rd, E8
985 5288

Wednesdays: Disco with rock 'n' roll DJ - free

Thursdays: Disco - free

Friday 14: The Strollers 8.30, 50p

Fri 21: Johnny and The Roccos 8.30, 50p

Fri 28: The Black Cats 8.30, 50p

Saturdays: Disco - free except Sat 8: The Bees 8.30, 50p

Theatre

CROWN AND CASTLE : see under music section

HALF MOON
213 Mile End Rd, E1
790 4000

Throughout May from Tuesdays to Saturdays (except dates listed below) the Half Moon will be presenting **WCPC** by Nigel Williams - a play about police corruption. Performances start at 8pm, with a Saturday matinee at 5pm. Prices are £3 Tues-Thurs, £4 Fri and Sat. Students and Senior Citizens £2, Unemployed with card, free. Exceptions:- Sundays 2 & 9: Simon Limbrick, percussionist, 8pm

Mon 24: **WOMEN LIVE** will present the following programme: Young people's introduction to theatre with Greenwich Young People's Theatre, followed by tea and discussion. 2.30, 75p

Sat 29: On the Shelf by Spare Tyre plus surprise guests. 8pm, £3

Sun 30: Women Live last night cabaret with The Sadista Sisters, She's Moved (band), Spare Tyre, UZ, Maggie Stead and others. 8pm, £3, late Bar.

THEATRE ROYAL

Gerry Raffles Square, E15
534 0310

Throughout May the Theatre Royal will be presenting **On Your Way, Riley**, a play by Alan Plater with songs by Alex Glasgow, featuring Brian Murphy and Maureen Lipman. Show starts at 8pm, Seats from £1, concessions for senior citizens, unemployed and students.

Exceptions:-
Sun 9: The UK Players (rock band) 8pm, prices from £2.50

chats palace

42-44 Brooksbys Walk, E9
986 6714

Sat 1: Victoria Park May Day Festival - Musichall, Cabaret, Displays and Exhibitions. From 2pm.

Sun 2: Lunchtime Jazz - Geoff Warren Qt. £1, children free.

Thur 6: Debate: Chats Palace, community centre or community arts centre. 8pm.

Fri 7: Siren Theatre Co. present CURFEW plus Bright Girls (band). £2/£1 unwaged.

Sat 8: Chats Palace Musichall present A Vaudeville night. With Will Gains & guests. 8pm, £2/£1 unwaged.

Sun 9: Lunchtime Jazz, The Mike Mower Qt. £1.

Thurs 13: **WOMEN LIVE:** Dolly Mixture plus Gymslips introduced by Flip Webster. 8pm, £1.50/75p unwaged.

Fri 14: Jo Ann Kelly in concert. 8pm, £2/£1 unwaged.

Sat 15: George's Cockney Pearly show. 8pm, £2/£1.

Sun 16: Lunchtime Jazz with Rick Taylor octet. £1.

Thurs 20: Benefit for Malpas Rd Community Home with folk band Peanut Brittle and The Hackney Singers, plus jazz guitarist John Ladie. 8pm, £1.

Fri 21: Women Live Music for Socialism present Women's bands. 'Phone for details. 8pm, £1.50/£1 unwaged.

Sat 22: Little Women Theatre Company in Fantasy Time plus Proper Little Madams. 8pm, £2/£1 unwaged.

Sun 23: Lunchtime Jazz with Rick Taylor octet.

Fri 28: Benefit for Off Centre with Rhythm 'n' Mystique dance group plus Disco. £2/£1

Sat 29: Hardware Theatre Co. in Brass Jacks Cabaret plus The Guest Stars (band). 8pm, £2/£1 unwaged.

Sun 30: Lunchtime Jazz with John Bennett Big Band. £1

CHATS PALACE UPDATE

In the February and March editions of HPP we reported on the financial deficit anticipated by Chats Palace, the Homerton Community Centre, and the approaches being made to secure adequate funding for the 1982/3 financial year. The extent of the problem was such that the last financial year ended with a deficit of £9,000 - which is now to be written off over the next 3 years.

Other developments reported to HPP by Simon Farr, Chats administrator, are that the Greater London Arts Association has increased its grant by 5 per cent and a grant of £23,980 has been received from the London Borough of Hackney's Community Development Committee - almost double last year's figure!

Although the result of the grant application to the GLC is still awaited, it looks as if Chats is starting the new financial year on a much happier note. In times of seemingly never ending financial crises for local community groups, it is nice to be able to report some good news for a change.

If you would like to be included on this page send details of your June events to us as soon as possible before May 22. Our Address is: Hackney Peoples Press, 47a Grayling Road, London N16.

Other events

MAYDAY FESTIVAL

The first May Day festival at Victoria Park is on Saturday May 1st, sponsored by the GLC as part of a London wide May Day celebration. The day is divided into three main sections: childrens entertainment will take place from 11am to 2pm, with the main events following, leading up to the "Carnival of Fire" from 8.30 to 11pm.

More than 50 stalls will form an international village around the monument in the park where visitors will be able to buy a variety of exhibits from all over the world, including food and drink. Around the park there will be sideshows, a fairground and a variety of childrens entertainment, including inflatables and a Punch and Judy show.

Food and Music will be provided throughout the day. Bands include Oxy and the Morons, The Ivory Coasters, City Twilights Steel Band, Mike Collins and John Bennett Big Bands, Chats Arkestra etc. Spanish, Morris and Caribbean style dancing will also be taking place.

The highlight of the festival will be the "Carnival of Fire": a huge spectacular fireshow involving hundreds of people from all walks of life, using music, song, dance, drama and ritual. As darkness falls over the park ten torch-lit processions bearing images symbolising the evils in our society: militarism, colonialism, nuclear war etc, will converge towards a central point of the park where they will be ritualistically burned. The festivals slogan is: East End, Best End. Don't miss it!

ROCK AGAINST RACISM
Stoke Newington RAR will present a Bank Holiday Funk-U-Thatcher event in Clissold Park, N16 on May 3 from 1-6pm with: Clint Eastwood, General Saint, Danny Cassanova Sound, Shank Orchestra, Tchaka.

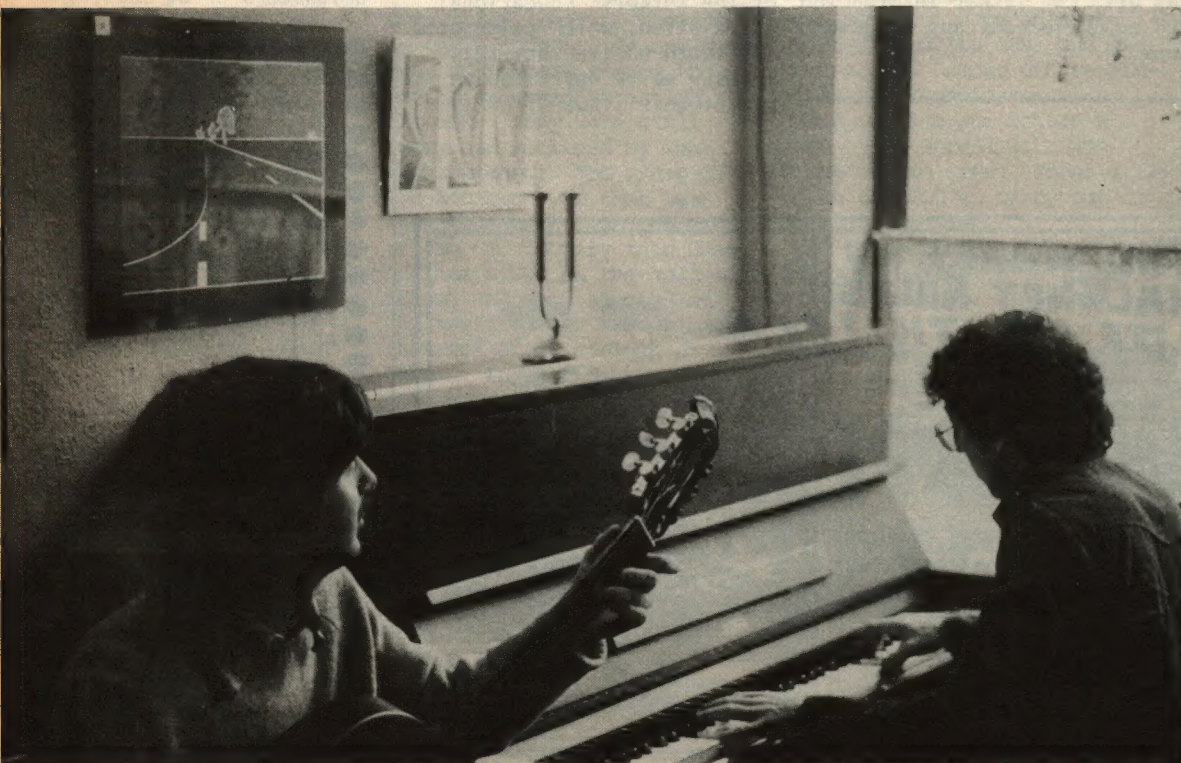
Food, drink, under-5's play stalls, Tara Theatre Group, Kid's entertainments, inflatables. A carnival for jobs sponsored by Hackney Council, Hackney Trades Council, Right to Work Campaign.

Meetings

Hackney Community Action will be having their AGM on May 12 at 7pm. Ring 729 5536 for details of venue etc.

Help for Handicapped People at home: Haringey Disablement Association and the Haringey Community Health Council will be holding a public meeting to examine the possibilities for setting up a Care Attendants Scheme on May 18 at Osborne Grove Luncheon Club, Upper Tollington Park, N4 (near the Osborne Tavern) at 7.30pm.

Transport may be available for handicapped people wishing to attend. Contact HDA 348 6857 or HCHC 808 1694.



FOX'S WINE BAR

photo: Tony Macklin

BAN THE KILLER LORRIES

Continued from p.1.

houses on the GLC roads most affected by heavy lorries.
Two: Provide better road surfaces to reduce noise and vibration from lorries.
Three: Impose a night time lorry ban between 10pm and 7am on all heavy lorries using the GLC area at night.
Four: Impose a weekend ban on heavy lorries in London- as in most EEC countries.
Five: Examine alternative routes for lorries as a matter of urgency.

The Graham Road Association received fantastic support from the candidates and had a majority of the elected GLC Labour Administration in favour of these demands - including leader Ken Livingstone.

This support led to the Inquiry now sitting. The Graham Road Association produced a detailed submission supporting its case, based on GLC statistics and evidence. After the visit to the Borough by the GLC Inquiry members, a delegation gave oral evidence to the Inquiry.

The Group stressed that there should be, in the first instance, a night-time and weekend ban within the North and South Circular roads on vehicles over 16 tons, and in the longer term a full-time ban on



Police examine the killer lorry after the accident. The driver said that he did not notice the impact.

(pic: Andrew Haig).

these vehicles. It was further pointed out that only 28 per cent of the HGV's in Graham Road had origins or destinations outside London. In fact only 11 per cent had any business in Hackney.

DIRT AND DAMAGE

In addition the Graham Road group made clear the danger, dirt and damage caused by the 11,000 vehicles that use the road each day. There came a

point, it was agreed when the community would become disgruntled and disillusioned and be subject to collapse as a result of this nuisance. This point was appreciated and they hope will be taken notice of.

The Inquiry releases its findings shortly and then it's really a question of political will to give London the peace and quiet it needs, and to help prevent the tragic accidents caused by heavy lorries to its inhabitants.

Hackney Gazette

GAFFE OF THE MONTH

ACTION ON ART SHOP

IN reply to a recent letter stating the need of an art shop in the Hackney area, I would like to say that the only reason there is not one right now is because it has taken nine months to obtain the necessary planning permission.

This was applied for at the time of opening our stationery shop in Hackney last July.

However, I am pleased to say that on the very day I heard about your reader's letter, I did in fact obtain permission.

Artists' materials and Let-raset will be available in Hackney very soon. - B. P. MCGOWAN, McGowan Stationery, 244 Graham Road, Dalston.

NEED FOR ARTISTS' MATERIALS

I WROTE to you recently in reply to a letter from Mrs. C. Poole, (Letters, March 5) who positively stated the need of an artists' material shop in the Hackney area.

I know from experience that this lady was voicing the opinion of hundreds of people because we get people in both our shops, every day of the week, saying exactly the same thing.

Of course we have to explain that it has always been our intention, since opening the Hackney shop last July, to open the first floor as artists and graphics supplies, but that we had to await the relevant planning permission.

My letter was intended to inform Mrs. Poole and all other people interested of my intentions, via your paper. - B. P. MCGOWAN, McGowan Stationery, 244 Graham Road, Hackney.

Desperate to fill space - or was it just absence of mind? These two letters appeared in the same issue, on the same page, one below the other on March 30th.

TEN YEARS AGO IN HACKNEY

Hackney's first borough-wide alternative paper hit the streets ten years ago this month. It was called Hackney Gutter Press, and was later to merge into the paper you have come to know and love. We will be running a regular feature from now on, culling gems, jokes, news stories and blunders from the past: all part of the rich tapestry of life from *Ten Years Ago in Hackney*.

The first issue of HGP was printed in both black and green on yellow and pink paper - wish we could afford such luxuries now! Much of the first issue was taken up with stories about the local Claimants Union. A march had been held from the offices of the Hackney Gazette, where the claimants protested at the paper's disregard for claimants' grievances to the Shoreditch Social Security Office. After about an hour of the 40 claimants waiting to be interviewed, the police were called and most of them were ejected.

There were also articles about public transport in Hackney, and the threat to the North London Line, squatting in Grayling Road, the possible closure of schools in the borough, and the setting up of a local branch of the Workers' Educational Association, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this month - as is described on p.2 of this issue of HPP.

Bus service cuts threatened

The fight for fair fares suffered a set back on 23 April when the London Transport Bill was talked out by Tory MPs on the second reading. The Bill, sponsored by Douglas Jay, would have enabled the GLC to subsidise fares. It would appear now from Tory warnings to the GLC to 'set its house in order' that the Government fully intends to take over LT or set up a separate authority to control it.

A recent paper from the GLC outlined the kind of emasculated service LT would have to run to break even and which might now have to be brought into operation. This paper estimates that fares will need to be increased by a further 50%, bus services cut by half and tubes by a quarter, there would be 25 tube stations fewer and 20

bus garages would have to close.

The effect of cuts like these is likely to cause total chaos on Hackney's already clogged roads. The first service cuts - a mere 10% - will give a foretaste of what is to come. These cuts, on July 31, will mean less frequent services on most routes. Some however will be worse affected: - the 106 is to be converted back to one-man operation, a move that has disastrous effects on reliability the last time - the S3 is to be withdrawn and partly replaced by an extended 278 - the 236 peak journeys via Eastway and Hackney Wick will be withdrawn.

Next Steps

Fare Fight isn't giving up and is urging local groups to

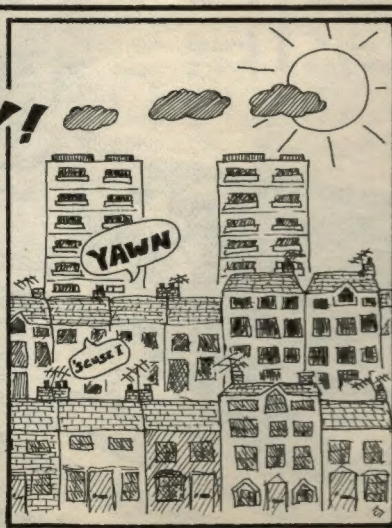
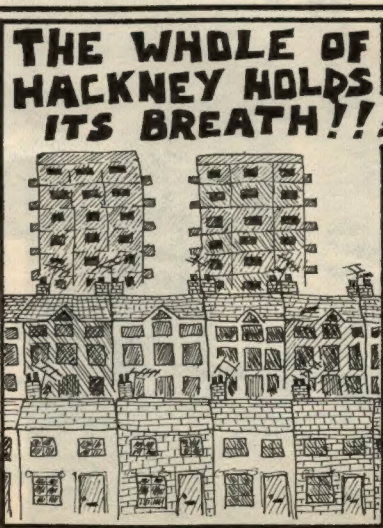
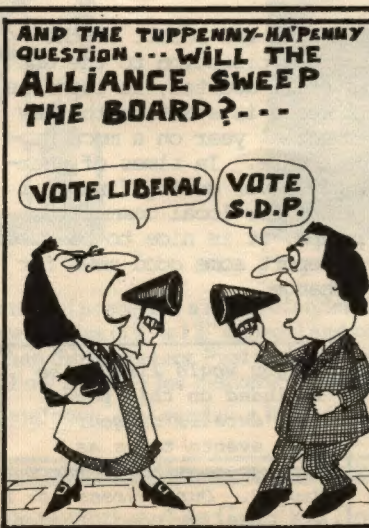
carry on the fight with a number of suggestions:

- * support London Transport workers in any action they may take to stop LT being strangled. A resolution of support to local bus garages could be one way.
- * a survey of members of your group to show how the fare increases and service cuts are affecting them would be effective publicity to use in local press and with MPs.

TUC south east region is planning a march on July 10, aiming for a national basis with support coming from other metropolitan areas throughout the country. The main route will be from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square.

John Sanders on 739 5137 can give the latest information and would welcome any suggestions.

PETTY BUREAU



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